GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6984
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
SELLING OF IMPORTED RICE
A. KRISHNASWAMY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the selling of imported rice in the open market is cheaper than the rice sold under P.D.S.;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that such circumstances encourage the black-marketeers to store the imported rice from the open market causing P.D.S. rice more costlier for the people;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that the rice eating State of Tamil Nadu will be the most affected; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a), (b) & (c) : As per the condition stipulated in the current Export and Import (EXIM) Policy of the Government, only rice with 50% or more brokens can be imported freely. However, under the Public Distribution System (PDS), the rice, which is distributed has a maximum limit of 25% brokens. The prices of these two different varieties of rice therefore are not comparable.

(d) To curb import of rice on private account and to make it more costlier, Government has imposed duty upto 80% on import of husked (brown) rice and broken rice, and upto 70% on semi-milled and wholly milled rice.